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Drug Unit at lone house in city confirmed

- Mysuru District Police had raided the 3-storeyed house at Yandahalli on city outskirts on Jan. 30
- 5 arrested in Gujarat, Mysuru Police stationed there for more arrests: SP Mallikarjun Baladandi

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (BLU&BCT)-
Baladandi

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) tests have confirmed that chemical substances seized from a three-storeyed house at Yandahalli on city outskirts near Sapthamatruka Layout on Jan. 30 were meant for manufacturing drugs.

The Mysuru District Police had raided the house on the outskirts of Mysuru and seized 10 barrels of chemicals and powdered substances stored on the ground floor. The first floor was occupied by the accused, who had fled the scene before the raids and more than 10 mobile phones were recovered during the search.

The FSL report has now confirmed that the seized materials included narcotics and precursor chemicals used in drug production. With this, Mysuru has witnessed the busting of its third drug manufacturing network in recent months.

(See UNIT on page 6)

Third production unit

The first raid on a drug manufacturing unit in Mysuru was carried out by Maharashtra Police at a shed on Outer Ring Road in Belavatha.

The second was conducted by a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Delhi team at a chemical factory in Hebbal Industrial Area. The third unit at Yandahalli was busted by Mysuru District Police on Jan. 30.

The three-storeyed lone house at Yandahalli on city outskirts near Sapthamatruka Layout.

This raid followed a tip-off from 'Mane Mane Police' team, which regularly visits houses in its jurisdiction to build public confidence and gather local inputs. During one such visit, Police personnel noticed a strong, pungent smell emanating from the three-storeyed house at Yandahalli.

The house, located in a Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) residential layout, stood isolated, with no neighbouring buildings. Residents had also complained of a foul odour. Acting swiftly, the Mysuru Police prised open a window from where the smell was strongest, forcing officers to cover their noses.

KSIC Filature Factory land row deepens

MP Yaduveer, ex-MP Simha join KSIC employees stir

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, former MP Prathap Simha, Advocate S. Arunkumar and former T. Narasipur Councillor Arjun Ramesh, visited KSIC Filature Factory at T. Narasipur this afternoon and extended their support to KSIC employees protesting against the stadium plans at the factory land. *[See also Page-6]*

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 24th February 2026

Open Day at Pragathi Vidya Kendra

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Pragathi Vidya Kendra, Mysuru, recently hosted an Open Day and Sci An Edufusion Expo at its premises in Bogadi Second Stage.

Chief guest Dr. Hanumanthachar Joshi, Principal, Sarada Vilas Pharmacy College, who inaugurated the event, spoke about the importance of science in our daily life and motivated the students to take Pure Science in their higher studies.

He also stressed the need to use technology wisely and serve the nation whenever possible.

Pranathi Vybhava-2025, a manuscript magazine, was released on the occasion in the presence of Chairman V. Venkatesh, Academic Director Jayashri Venkatesh, Trustee Member P.S. Rajarathnam, well-wisher Kavya, Principal of PEPS Chaithra, Head Mistress K.K. Mamatha, staff and a host of parents and students.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

THE TREASURE OF JNANIS: ***Acharyas did not impart knowledge to a student randomly. A new sishya could not hope to be taught higher philosophy right at the outset. Several years would be spent by a sishya under the tutelage of an Acharya, before he would be taught esoteric philosophy. This was the usual practice — disciples being taught after they had served their Acharya sincerely for a long time. Even if a sishya had served an Acharya for many years, he would be taught, only if he had an eagerness to learn. But things changed with Ramanujacharya, said Elayavilli Sriram in a discourse. Whoever wanted to learn was taught by him, without keeping students waiting. So, he brought in a new system of teaching, benefiting students who had a desire to study. Thus, Ramanuja expanded the reach of the explanations for religious literature given by scholars.***

Prativadhi Bhayankaram Annan wrote a suprabhatham for Ramanuja, where he uses the word amalaswantha to describe Ramanuja's purity. Like earlier Acharyas, Ramanuja too was aware of the greatness of sacred texts. But he saw the sorry state of grihasthas. He took pity on them and wanted to help them get liberated. He knew that if too many rules were laid down, people would be put off by all the rigidity. So, he relaxed some rules, to ensure that the scriptures reached everyone. Ramanuja can help us cross the ocean of samsara. On Panguni Uthiram, Ramanuja performed Saranagati in Srirangam. The Lord assured him that anyone associated with him would also attain liberation. Thus, a Ramanuja connection will save us. Prativadhi Bhayankaram Annan's suprabhatham hails Ramanuja as the treasure of jnanis. Ramanuja acquired such auspiciousness because of his association with Acharyas like Peria Nambi. He attained jnana fully because he was close to such Acharyas. — *In The Hindu*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Man trains dog to dump garbage!

Catania: An Italian man has been accused of training his dog to dump garbage at an illegal roadside dump near Catania. The authorities have released CCTV footage in which the dog is seen carrying a trash bag in its mouth and leaving it by the roadside.

The video, posted on Catania's official Facebook page, shows the dog going towards the dumping spot, placing a large bag of household waste on the ground and then heading back in the direction it came from.

Authorities believe the video clearly shows the dog was not acting randomly. "A scene that leaves little room for doubt," they wrote, adding that the animal is believed to have been trained to avoid the owner being caught on camera. The man was later identified and fined.

'Smart Underwear' tracks farts!

Maryland: Researchers at University of Maryland have designed "Smart Underwear" to track and measure flatulence — and they are seeking volunteers to wear them.

Brantley Hall, Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics, led a team of scientists in creating the small device that snaps into a wearer's underwear and uses electrochemical sensors to track intestinal gas. Hall said the device specifically records releases of hydrogen.

The researchers are now working on a Human Flatus Atlas to objectively measure gas releases across hundreds of patients using Smart Underwear. The project will develop a baseline for normal adult flatulence patterns.

"We don't actually know what normal flatus production looks like. Without that baseline, it's hard to know when someone's gas production is truly excessive," Hall said.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Weight and Fertility

Both underweight and overweight individuals may experience hormonal imbalance. Even a 5-10% weight correction can restore ovulation in many women.

By Dr. Nivedita Shetty - Chief of Reproductive Medicine
Manipal Hospitals, Mysuru

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

DCF on JSS Live Phone-in Programme tomorrow

K. Paramesh

Mysuru, Feb. 24- JSS Radio 91.2 FM has scheduled a live interview and phone-in programme tomorrow (Feb. 25) from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm, with K. Paramesh, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Mysuru Territorial Division.

The public is invited to call in and speak directly with the Forest Conservation Officer regarding any questions, concerns, suggestions and preventive measures related to forest protection during the summer season, including fire prevention, wildlife safety and community participation.

For participation, listeners may contact the Radio Station on Ph: 0821-2546563 or Mob: 82967-25912.

JSS Radio can be listened through the JSS Radio App, available on the Google Play Store.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **114.77 feet**	Today's level **2,272.47 feet**	Today's level **2,830.09 feet**
Last year's level **114.53 feet**	Last year's level **2,275.63 feet**	Last year's level **2,836.98 feet**
Yesterday's level **115.10 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,272.66 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,830.08 feet**
Today's Inflow **161 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **124 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **239 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **4,303 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***Officially known as Akashvani since 1956, it is the world's second-largest radio network. As per the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, AIR has covered over 99% of the population of the country. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is Doordarshan's sister service under Prasar Bharati.***
- ***In 1957, the Vividh Bharati Radio channel was launched to compete with Radio Ceylon.***
- ***In 1976, Doordarshan split from AIR.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: *What happened when the world's tongue-twister champion got arrested?*
Student: *They gave him a tough sentence!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= **Rs. 90.96**
1 UK Pound	= **Rs. 122.65**
1 UAE Dirham	= **Rs. 24.77**
1 Euro	= **Rs. 107.08**

VOICE OF THE READER

Growing parking crisis: A civic wake-up call

Sir,

Mysuru, a city long known for its planned layouts and civic discipline, is now grappling with a growing parking crisis that can no longer be ignored.

Across several neighbourhoods, a clear pattern has emerged. The number of private four-wheelers has increased significantly, but many homeowners have made little or no provision to park these vehicles within their own premises. Instead, residential streets and even footpaths have become permanent parking bays.

Footpaths meant for pedestrians are increasingly blocked by parked cars and bikes. People are forced onto the road, putting their safety at risk.

Most internal roads in Mysuru's residential areas were never designed to accommodate vehicles parked on both sides. These narrow roads were intended for smooth movement, not long-term storage of private cars.

When vehicles line both sides, two-way traffic becomes difficult, emergency vehicles face delays, routine commuting turns stressful and avoidable disputes arise among neighbours.

Particularly troubling is the growing practice of parking vehicles directly in front of others' homes without consent, sometimes even blocking gates and access points.

Another concern is the number of abandoned or unused vehicles left on roadsides for months or even years. These vehicles gather dust, reduce visibility, create an unsightly environment and in some cases, pose health and safety risks.

This issue is no longer a minor inconvenience; it reflects a deeper urban management problem. Authorities must step in with clear and firm measures.

Requiring proof of in-house parking before registering new vehicles, penalising habitual roadside parking, clearing long-abandoned vehicles, strictly enforcing no-parking zones in narrow lanes and strengthening public transport options are steps that deserve serious consideration.

At the same time, civic responsibility begins at home. Owning a vehicle is a personal choice, but parking it responsibly is a public obligation. One person's convenience cannot come at the cost of inconvenience to an entire neighbourhood.

Mysuru has earned its reputation as one of Karnataka's best-planned and culturally refined cities. Preserving that character will require both administrative resolve and public cooperation. If left unchecked, today's parking problem could evolve into tomorrow's urban disorder.

A truly civilised city is not defined by the number of cars on its roads, but by the discipline with which they are managed.

—Dr. G. Rathnakar,
Associate Dean-Academics
JSS Science & Technology University
Mysuru 17.2.2026

8th Convocation of JSS Science and Technology University tomorrow

Alumnus B.M. Jayeshankar, Adarsh Group Chairman & MD, to deliver Convocation Address

Jayeshankar

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (MTY& BNR)- The 8th Convocation of JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU) will be held at its premises in the JSS Technical Institutions Campus in city on Feb. 25 at 3 pm.

Announcing this at a press meet at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the University, JSS STU Vice-Chancellor Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar said, this year, the University will confer degrees on 1,832 students — 1,081 Bachelor of Engineering (BE) graduates; 63 Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) graduates; 99 Master of Technology (M.Tech); 118 Master of Computer Applications (MCA); 161 Master of Science (M.Sc); 281 Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduates; 29 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) scholars.

To honour academic excellence, 74 medals will be awarded during the ceremony. Among them, 37 Gold Medals will recognise branch toppers, while 37 Endowment Medals will celebrate meritorious achievements, he added.

The Convocation will be presided over by Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Chancellor of JSS STU, who will bless and confer the degrees upon the graduating students.

JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU) Vice-Chancellor Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar addressing a press meet at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the University yesterday as (from left) Principal Dr. C. Nataraj, Registrar Dr. S.A. Dhanaraj and Controller of Examinations Dr. P. Nanjundaswamy look on.

Convocation Address will be delivered by B.M. Jayeshankar, Chairman and Managing Director of Adarsh Group, Bengaluru, who is also a distinguished alumnus of the college.

Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, Executive Secretary, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, will administer Oath for graduands. Dr. B. Suresh, Director, Technical Education Division; Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, VC; Dr. S.A. Dhanaraj, Registrar; Dr. P. Nanjundaswamy, Controller of Examinations and Deans will be present.

Also, JSS STU has signed significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with leading organisations to provide students with real-world exposure and industry-aligned skills: • Bajaj Engineering Skills Training, Pune - Centre of Excellence for Mechanical and Electronics; • Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); • Vigyan Labs; • Fuji Electric - Centre of Excellence for Electrical and Electronics.

These collaborations open doors to curriculum development, internships, research, skill development and career opportunities in core engineering, semiconductor technology, artificial intelligence and emerging domains — ensuring that students graduate industry-ready and future-focused, the VC added.

St. Lawrence International School shines

at South India-level Staark Robotics competition

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Students of St. Lawrence International School, Mysuru, created a remarkable impression at the Staark Robotics Competition held in Chennai by winning awards across all categories at the South India-level, competing against 17 top schools.

Aadhya, Vinish, Lavin and Tooba secured first place in the Robotics Challenge for their obstacle-avoidance robot "Path Pilot," designed to assist visually impaired individuals.

Kiranya Reddy and Prishitha bagged the second place in the AI and Quantum PPT Presentation category.

Bhuvan Raj secured second place in the AI Application category for developing "SahAI," an AI-based chat system that detects mental distress.

Viraaj and Manvith won the second place in Storytelling and first place in Drawing contest.

In addition, Dhanvin, Ved Avyan, Nathan, Ujjwal, Shriyan and Dewaansh participated in the Robotics Challenge and were recognised as the best performers at the school-level, securing school-wise prizes for their innovative efforts.

Star Pups

ADOPT US...

Biscuit *Pari* *Burfi* *Gunda*

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Four Indian desi pups (two female and two male) named Biscuit, Pari, Burfi and Gunda, which are de-wormed and vaccinated, are up for adoption at People For Animals (PFA), Mysuru. The four pups are aged one year and five months.

All the four puppies are healthy, playful and ready to be adopted. PFA has urged the public to come forward and adopt the puppies and consider adoption as a way to address the growing crisis of abandoned and homeless dogs.

For details, contact PFA on Ph: 0821-2598213 or Mob: 98456-54429, 97384-41568 or e-mail: *pfamysore@gmail.com*

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NEWS BRIEFS

CM in city tomorrow

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will arrive in Mysuru on a one-day visit tomorrow (Feb. 25). The CM, who will land at Mysore Airport in Mandakalli at 5.15 pm, will take part in local programmes, following which he will return to Bengaluru at 9 pm the same day.

Power disruption

As Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has taken up its fourth quarterly maintenance works at 66/11 KV Doora Power Distribution Centre, there will be disruption in power supply tomorrow (Feb. 25) between 10 am and 5 pm at Bidaragudu and Kembalu Water Supply Plants, according to a press release from the Executive Engineer (EE), Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), Nanjangud Division.

Informative expo

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), in association with SELCO Foundation, has organised a public informative expo on Products Packaging, Branding, Marketing, Modern Equipment, Solar Based Machinery etc., for members of the public, physically challenged persons, street vendors, economically backward people, members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) of the city, to undertake self-employment, at Town Hall in city at 10 am on Mar. 6. Interested may attend the event and get information about taking up self-employment and availing benefits.

Matrimonial Meet

Sri Basaveshwara Vadhu-Varara Vivaha Vedike will be hosting a Veerashaiva-Lingayat Matrimonial Meet at Sri Vidyabharathi Kalyana Mantapa, Uttaradi Mutt Road, near Gun House Circle, from 3 pm to 6 pm on Mar. 15. Graduate brides and bridegrooms of the community from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts with a good job in hand, can register before Mar. 14. For details, call Mob: 96862-05346.

Free Cancer Clinic

A free Cancer Detection Clinic has been organised at Preethi Cancer Centre in Lakshmipuram on Feb. 26 from 10 am to 8 pm. For details, contact Ph: 0821-4259259.

Ph.D awardee

S. Prema has been awarded Ph.D in Kannada by the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, for her thesis 'Ramayana Adharita Kannada Natakagalalli Mahile' submitted under the guidance of Prof. D. Naganna.

Drive against drugs

CCB sleuths arrest four accused

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (KS)- Acting tough on those storing, transporting and selling narcotic substances in city, the City Crime Branch (CCB) Police on Monday arrested four persons who were carrying narcotic substance MDMA and have seized the drug worth over Rs. 10 lakh.

Those arrested are 23-year-old Nuhed Khan of Bengaluru, 46-year-old Javeed Ahmed of Lashkar Mohalla, 28-year-old Ziaulla and 19-year-old Suhail Pasha of Ghousianagar.

The CCB Police have seized MDMA weighing 103.88 grams worth Rs. 10,30,800 besides seizing a Toyota Innova SUV (KA-05-NK-7805) worth Rs. 8 lakh from them.

Yesterday, when the Police were checking vehicles on Omar Khayyam Road in Tilaknagar, the Police found MDMA in the SUV's dashboard and took all the four occupants into their custody.

Nuhed *Javeed* *Ziaulla* *Suhail*

On searching them, the Police found that all the four were carrying MDMA with them. Police said that one of the accused Javeed Ahmed is a habitual drug peddler.

The CCB Police have handed over all the four accused and the seized drug and SUV to Mandi Police, who have registered a case and are investigating.

City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, DCP (Crime and Traffic) K.S. Sundar Raj and CCB ACP Mohammed Shariff Rawther guided CCB Inspector Shabir Hussain, Sub-Insprctors K. Lepaksha, Jyothsnaraj and Revanna Siddappa and staff Madhu Kumar, Chethan, Adham, Kiran Rathod, Santosh Pawar, Hazarath Ali, Rajasab, Sameer, Yashwanth, Devaraju, N.G. Mamatha, Siddaraju and Suresh in the nabbing and seizing operation.

Murderous attack...

Youth sustains fractures in legs

Villainy act of 10-member gang at Dinka village in Pandavapura taluk; Issue over missing girl turns ugly

Pandavapura, Feb. 24 (BS)- In a gruesome incident, a gang of 10 allegedly carried out a murderous attack on two persons over a trivial issue, leaving one of them severely injured, at Dinka village in Pandavapura taluk, Mandya district recently.

The injured person has been identified as Prakash, who has sustained fracture in his legs and is admitted for treatment at a private hospital in Mysuru.

Pandavapura Police have booked a case against 14 persons and have taken one Girish into their custody and interrogating him.

The handiwork of Prakash and his brother-in-law was suspected behind the incident of a girl from a village in K.R. Pet taluk, going missing. When the girl's brother questioned Prakash about the same, the latter along with his relative, had allegedly assaulted the former.

On Feb. 22 afternoon, Prakash was riding his two-wheeler towards Chinakurali, along with one Naveen, when the accused, who came in cars and motorbikes, waylaid them.

The accused, identified as Girish, Manju, Jeevan, Shashikumar, Ayyappa, Madan, Madappa, Ravi, Ninganna and Ganesh, had clubs and fencing stones with them.

Fearing attack, Prakash and Naveen, made a bid to run helter-skelter towards Marasanahalli through the fields at Kanaganahalli, but the accused chased and caught hold of them, before beating them black and blue.

However, Prakash had to face the fury of assailants, who unleashed their villainy act, by throwing fencing stone on his legs and knees, even as he was pleading mercy.

Strangely, the whole incident was caught on camera of the accused, which later went viral. Such acts of video recording the crime incidents, have become a new normal nowadays, which is encouraging others to follow suit.

Attempt to assault

Three arrested

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (PM&KS)- Alanahalli Police have arrested three youths, who had tried to assault another youth with lethal weapons. Those arrested are Vinod, Rakesh and another youth, residents of Kyathamaranahalli.

The trio had made a vain bid to assault one Gagan, a resident of Lalithadripura and a case has been registered against them.

According to the complaint lodged by Gagan's mother Sudha with Alanahalli Police on Feb. 19 at about 9.45 pm, the three youths, carrying lethal weapons in an autorickshaw, came to the house & tried to assault Gagan.

The complaint further stated that, when she (Sudha) asked Gagan, who they are, he said that he knew one of them by name Rakesh, who had told him that he (Rakesh) was in love with his relative's daughter to which he (Gagan) had told him to mend his ways.

Harassing woman to give phone number

FIR registered against neighbour

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (PM&KS)- An FIR has been registered against a man for harassing his neighbour to speak to him and give him her phone number.

In her complaint, the woman has stated that her neighbour Devaraju was following her and pestering her to talk to him and also give her mobile phone number to him.

She further stated in the complaint that Devaraju threatened to kill her husband if she did not give him her phone number. Despite telling him what he was doing was not right, he (Devaraju) continued to harass her and she had not told this to her husband fearing that Devaraju would harm him.

On Feb. 14 at about 11 am when she was proceeding on her scooter to buy medicines, Devaraju, who followed her on his bike, waylaid her near the park, opposite to Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple, asked her to give him her phone number. On seeing many people passing by, he left from the spot and again waylaid her scooter on Kalidasa Road and again demanded her to give the phone number besides threatening to kill her and her husband. She somehow escaped from him and reached her home, the complaint further stated.

Stating that it has become very difficult for her to go out of the house, she lodged a complaint on Feb. 20 urging the Police to initiate legal action against Devaraju. Based on the complaint, a FIR has been registered.

H.D. Deve Gowda's ex-Personal Secretary passes away

Devashetty Gowda

Mysuru, Feb. 24- M.V. Devashetty Gowda (84), an ex-Personal Secretary of former Prime Minister and JD(S) Supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, passed away at a Bengaluru Hospital last evening following illness.

He leaves behind three daughters, a son and a host of relatives and friends.

He was a native of Mulakatte village in Nagamangala taluk of Mandya district.

Beginning his Government service at the State Secretariat in Bengaluru, Devashetty Gowda later served as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to several past Ministers, including Y.K. Ramaiah, H.T. Krishnappa, H.G. Govindegowda and K.N. Nagegowda.

After retiring from service, he served as the Personal Secretary of former PM H.D. Deve Gowda for a record 18 years.

He was also actively associated with Kannada Associations and Resident Welfare Associations in Bengaluru.

His body was kept at his residence at Nagarabhavi in Bengaluru for some time this morning, following which last rites were performed at Hanchahalli near Keragodu in Mandya taluk later this afternoon.

Swachh Survekshan-2026 Brand Ambassadors

Six celebrities to lead city cleanliness drive

Swachhata Brand Ambassadors *— (sitting from left)* ***noted sculptor Arun Yogiraj,*** *Bigg Boss-***fame Suraj Singh, actor-couple Vasishta Simha and Haripriya — who were felicitated in city recently, are seen with Regional Commissioner and MCC Administrator Nitesh Patel, MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, MCC Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) G.S. Somashekar and others.**

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (MK&BCT)- Mysuru's noted sculptor Arun Yogiraj, actors Vasishta Simha and Haripriya, *Bigg Boss* personality Suraj Singh, singer Ananya Bhat and rapper 'All OK' Alok R. Babu have been appointed as 'Swachh Survekshan-2026' Brand Ambassadors.

Recognised globally for its rich heritage and cultural legacy, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has roped in six achievers from diverse fields as 'Swachhata Brand Ambassadors' to reinforce its commitment to cleanliness. The initiative is part of the nationwide 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' campaign.

The MCC said the move is aimed not only at improving sanitation standards but also

Ananya Bhat ***Alok R. Babu***

at nurturing a culture of cleanliness among citizens.

Arun Yogiraj, who sculpted the Balak Ram idol installed at the Sri Ram Mandir, Ayodhya, joins popular Sandalwood actors Vasishta Simha and Haripriya on the list.

Suraj Singh, known for his stint on *Bigg Boss Kannada* reality show, singer Ananya Bhat, admired for her devotional renditions including songs on Sri Male Mahadeshwara and rapper Alok Babu 'All OK' will also serve as Brand Ambassadors.

As Cleanliness Ambassadors, they will take part in awareness drives, rallies and outreach programmes organised by the MCC. They are expected to spread messages on sanitation and environmental protection in schools, colleges and public forums.

The MCC has been appointing Ambassadors annually, clarifying that the role is voluntary and carries no honorarium.

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif expressed confidence that the involvement of these achievers would help further the vision of making Mysuru a clean, disciplined and a model city.

Harmony Community Feast hosted for city civic warriors

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (KS) - A Harmony Community Feast (Saha Pankthi Bhojana), organised by Mohammed Musheer, a member of the College Development Council (CDC) of the Government Girls' Pre-University College, was held in city recently in which local leaders dined along with civic warriors.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammed Musheer said, "Since the day of my appointment, I have been working for the all-round development of this college. Last week, a cleanliness drive was held in the College premises and the Pourakarmikas have been working hard with us. In this context, under the guidance of MLA Tanveer Sait, we have organised this community feast to dine with them. Ward and

Constituency leaders participated and supported us."

Syed Iqbal, President of Azeez Sait Block Congress Committee stated, "Mohammed Musheer has been working for the College's development since his appointment. It is a welcome move that he has organised a harmony feast specifically for the civic warriors. This cleanliness drive is a preamble to making our Mysuru city the cleanest in the country once again."

C.R. Rachaiah, President of Pourakarmika Association, remarked, "It is a matter of joy that along with providing quality education, cleanliness is also being maintained at the Rajivnagar Government Girls' PU College. Our co-operation will always be there for the cleanliness activities of the college." Lecturer Jameer Ahmed Khan, Congress leader Afroz Khan, Majid Ahmed, Haroon, Rafi, Syed Arif, Ghafoor Azad and others were present.

SDM-IMD hosts International Case Conference

Experts call for grassroots innovation and co-creation to address global employment challenges

Guest speaker S.N. Shamanth *(second from left),* ***Director, Rakuten India Enterprise Pvt. Ltd., seen with*** *(from left)* ***Dr. K. Riyazahmed, Faculty, SDM-IMD, Dr. (Lt. Col.) S.N. Prasad, Director, SDM-IMD, Sathwik and Kushala (Student Coordinators).***

Mysuru, Feb. 24- "By 2030, nearly 800 million people will be seeking employment globally. Creating adequate job opportunities for such a vast population will be extremely challenging for governments and the employment sector alone. Grassroots initiatives and the adoption of co-creation models are essential to address this situation," said S.N. Shamanth, Director, Rakuten India Enterprise Pvt. Ltd., and Co-Chairman, International Business Expert Committee, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC).

Delivering the keynote address at the First International Case Conference on "Contemporary Contexts in Innovation, Inclusion and Impact" organised by SDM Institute for Management Development (SDM-IMD), Mysuru, he shared analytical insights drawn from Japan's business environment.

He explained that local municipalities create innovation hubs that provide a strong platform for multiple sectors. Venture capitalists, strategic investors, and angel investors actively participate in these ecosystems.

Referring to the Keiretsu concept in Japan, he noted how established industries collaborate with startups, enabling new businesses to grow and scale.

Analysing today's startup ecosystem, Shamanth observed that many startups cease operations within two to three years of inception, often because they develop products and business models without fully understanding market needs. He emphasised that whatever is built must be rigorously tested and validated before scaling.

Dr. (Lt. Col.) S.N. Prasad, Director, SDM-IMD, who delivered the inaugural address, said, "Case studies are niche in nature. They promote critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving and innovative solutions."

Prof. Sankarshan Basu of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bengaluru, underscored the critical importance of rigorous case study analysis in fostering managerial insight, contextual decision-making and applied learning.

As part of the conference, a panel discussion titled "The Case Ecosystem: Writing, Publishing, and Teaching for Impact" was conducted. The panel featured Dr. Veena K. Pailwar, Best-Selling Case Author and Faculty, Institute of Management Technology Nagpur; Dr. Shreya Mishra, Editor, South Asian Journal of Management Cases and Faculty, Birla Institute of Management Technology and Dr. S. N. Prasad.

An integrated case writing workshop was also organised, focusing on the craft of case writing, development of teaching notes, qualitative case research and publication pathways.

Dr. K. Riyazahmed, Faculty, SDM-IMD and Editorial Team Member (Associate Editor - Manuscript Handling), SN Business and Economics along with Dr. Shreya Mishra, were resource persons for the workshop. More than 37 research papers were presented as part of the Meet.

MP distributes new BPL cards

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar distributing new BPL cards to beneficiaries of MCC Ward 5 (Kumbarakoppal), who were recommended by him, at his office in city recently as Kumbarakoppal Abhyudaya Sangha Vice-President Mahadevanna, Secretary Bhyrappa, City BJP ST Morcha President Paduvarahalli Ramakrishna and other local leaders look on.

KSIC Filature Factory land row deepens

MGP joins chorus, warns of legal action

MGP Founder-President Bhamy V. Shenoy seen addressing a press conference at Pathrakarthara Bhavan in city this morning as (from left) Advocates Pragna and S. Arunkumar, MGP Working President S.K. Dinesh and Hon. Secretary Prabha Nandish look on.

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (BLU&BS)- The proposed stadium on the land of the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) Filature Factory at Bhyrapura in T. Narasipur taluk has triggered a fresh controversy, with Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) joining those opposing the project, citing serious concerns over environmental damage.

Addressing a press meet at Pathrakarthara Bhavana this morning, MGP Working President S.K. Dinesh and Advocate S. Arunkumar warned that they would launch a legal battle by filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the Karnataka High Court if the Government goes ahead with the plan.

They said a memorandum would first be submitted to CM Siddaramaiah and District Minister and T. Narasipur MLA Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, urging them to shift the proposed stadium to an alternative location.

Expansion, not relocation

Clarifying that MGP is not opposed to sports activities, Dinesh said KSIC land is better suited for industrial expansion, especially in view of the rising demand for Mysore Silk sarees.

"The Filature Factory land is ideal for industry. Instead of constructing a stadium there, KSIC should be allowed to expand operations. This will generate more employment opportunities for local youth," he said, alleging that public opinion is being overlooked.

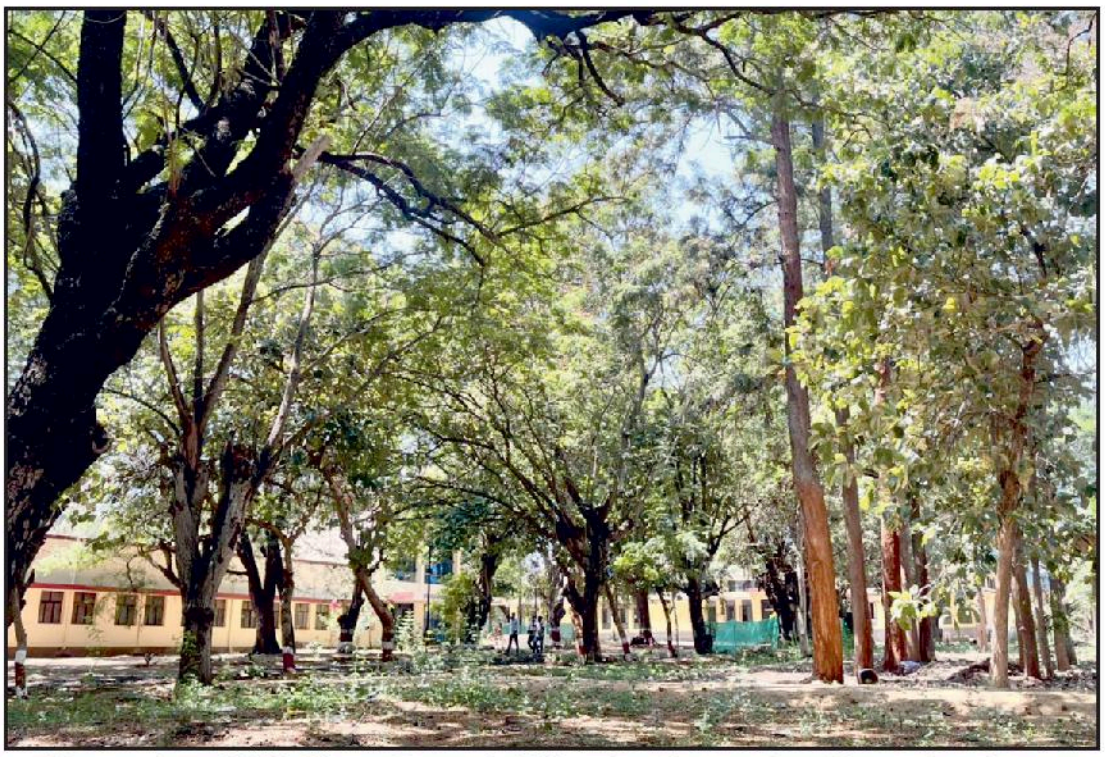
GI-tagged legacy

Advocate Arunkumar said Mysuru has only a few Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products, but their significance is often underestimated. Mysore Silk Saree and Mysore Sandal Soap have given the city global recognition, he noted.

He described the Filature Factory as the "mother unit" of both Mysuru and Channapatna silk factories. About 2,500 kg of silk is processed daily at the unit, with around 300 kg supplied to silk weaving centres for saree production, he explained.

The trees within the premises, he said, play a crucial role in absorbing pollutants generated from the burning of nearly 7,000 tonnes of charcoal used in silk processing. Felling them for a stadium would be environmentally unsound, he argued.

Advocate Pragna and MGP Hon. Secretary Prabha Nandish were present at the press meet.



The premises of KSIC Filature Factory in T. Narasipur that stands amid canopies of trees.

VALUE OF TREES: MGP Founder-President Bhamy V. Shenoy stressed the ecological value of the large number of trees on the factory premises. Citing international assessments, he said a 50-year-old tree is valued at nearly Rs. 50 crore, considering its ecological benefits.

He also referred to a 2022 Supreme Court-appointed Expert Committee that assessed the value of trees felled for development projects, noting that a 100-year-old tree could be worth around Rs. 1 crore.

"If needed, we will file a PIL in the High Court. An advocate from Bengaluru has agreed to assist us in pursuing the legal battle," he said.

With the CM Siddaramaiah scheduled to visit the city tomorrow, MGP office-bearers said they would submit a petition seeking reconsideration of the project. If their appeal fails, they reiterated their decision to approach the Courts.

Protest in Mysuru against Stadium in T. Narasipur Filature Factory

Members of Karnataka Sena Pade, led by their District Unit President Tejesh Lokesh Gowda, staging a protest in front of old Deputy Commissioner's Office in the city this morning, against the proposal to build a stadium at the land belonging to KSIC Filature Factory in T. Narasipur.

Drug Unit at lone house

(Continued from page 1)

Senior officials, led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Mallikarjun Baladandi, inspected the premises. The team found several solid chemical substances and 10 barrels of liquid chemicals.

Samples were immediately sent to the FSL, which confirmed the presence of narcotics and precursor chemicals essential for drug manufacturing. Police also seized 1 kg of contraband from the premises.

Following the breakthrough, Mysuru Police extended their probe to Gujarat, where five persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Team still in Gujarat

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, SP Mallikarjun Baladandi said lab tests confirmed the presence of one kilogram of narcotics along with raw materials required for drug production.

"Investigations revealed that those involved in Yandahalli drug unit were of Gujarat origin. Acting on this lead, our teams conducted operations in Gujarat and arrested five accused," he said.

He added that a Police team continues to remain in Gujarat as part of the ongoing investigation. Clear leads have been obtained on other suspects, and further arrests are expected.

The Yandahalli house was constructed by late Lingaiah, a retired Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police. His son, a KSRTC bus conductor, had rented out the premises.

While the first and second floors are residential units, the ground floor has a godown-like structure. The ground floor had been rented out to one Bhagan Lal from Rajasthan.

Spread to rural areas

Mysuru, long known for its idyllic living, is now grappling with a growing drug menace. Public fear that the city could join the ranks of major drug-hit centres if the networks are not dismantled swiftly.

The problem is not confined to urban areas. At a recent Zilla Panchayat meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, farmers raised concerns that drug consumption is spreading to villages, with some residents reportedly turning to narcotics instead of alcohol. They urged the administration to take stringent measures.

For the Mysuru Police, dismantling drug manufacturing and supply chains and working towards a drug-free city and district has emerged as a major challenge

Lokayukta Cops conduct in-house inquiry at NHAI SLAO office

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (BLU&BS)- A six-member team of Lokayukta Police conducted an in-house inquiry at the office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO) and Competent Authority, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)-275, Mysuru–Madikeri section, on Geetha road in Chamarajapuram here this morning.

The office is located on Geetha Road in Chamarajapuram. The inquiry pertains to a complaint filed in 2021 by Kumar, a resident of Srirangapatna, alleging criminal misconduct against the SLAO of NHAI.

The matter has been under investigation since then. Lokayukta officials recorded the entire proceedings on camera as part of the inquiry.

However, the Lokayukta officers refused to divulge details of the case to media persons waiting outside SLAO office.

NAREDCO Seminar on 'Greater Mysuru - Way Forward'

Yaduveer calls for MCC polls before Greater Mysuru rollout

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (PM&BCT)- Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has said, the proposed 'Greater Mysuru' of the Greater Mysuru City Corporation (GMCC) project must be implemented only through a democratic process, beginning with elections to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

He was speaking at a Seminar on 'Greater Mysuru - Way Forward' organised by the Mysuru Chapter of the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) at Southern Star Hotel in city last evening.

The MP said, there was no disagreement over the need for a 'Greater Mysuru' plan, but stressed that its execution must follow democratic principles. With no elected representatives in the MCC at present, the administration is not functioning in a representative manner, he observed.

Clarifying that officials were not failing in their duties, he underlined that governance must be rooted in democratic accountability. Public opinions and suggestions from organisations should reach Corporators, who can deliberate in the Council and take informed decisions, he said, adding that such a system is currently absent.

"MPs and MLAs cannot visit every Ward and street, making Municipal elections essential. Only through local elected representatives can local issues be better understood and groundwork for Greater Mysuru can begin," he opined.

City at a crucial juncture

Yaduveer urged stakeholders, particularly NAREDCO, to initiate wider consultations on the project. Bringing together diverse views will take time, he said, but Mysuru stands at a crucial juncture in shaping its future.

Recalling the contribution of the Wadiyars in building Mysuru, he said public participation had played a key role in the city's planned development. He cautioned against unscientific growth that could damage heritage and the environment.

Referring to the proposed flyover from Metropole Circle to Hinkal, he warned that such projects could lead to the felling of trees and harm traditional structures. "In such cases, society as a whole must step forward to safeguard genuine development. Mysuru needs growth models that strengthen infrastructure without compromising its environmental and cultural fabric," he opined.

Mysuru's future urban growth

Prof. Nelson Joe Vijay Paias, Architect, Urban Designer and Professor at Wadiyar Centre for Architecture, made a detailed presentation on Mysuru's future urban trajectory.

He spoke about the role of citizens and subject experts, the need for preparatory groundwork and adherence to planning norms during expansion.

He emphasised that every city has inherent characteristics that must guide its growth. Planning, he said, is not just about drawing maps but understanding systems, capacities and conducting comprehensive studies before expansion.

Prof. Nelson argued that Greater Mysuru should follow the development model adopted by the Maharajas of Mysore, whose foresight ensured wide roads, clean surroundings and robust civic infrastructure, sparing the city from severe pollution seen elsewhere.

Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa, MCC Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) G.S. Somashekar, NAREDCO Karnataka Chapter President Manoj Lodha, Mysuru Chapter President Dr. M.D. Raghavendra Prasad, Chairman V.C. Ravikumar, NAREDCO Mysuru Chapter Founder and Past Chairman N. Divyesh and M.V. Ramaprasada and others were present during the Seminar.

Prof. K. Ramakrishnaiah takes charge as Music Varsity VC

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (BS)- Prof. K. Ramakrishnaiah assumed charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka State Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, in city yesterday.

This follows a notification issued from Raj Bhavan, with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, also the Chancellor of the University, appointing Prof. Ramakrishnaiah, as the Vice-chancellor of Music University.

The outgoing VC Prof. Nagesh V. Bettakote handed over the charge to Prof. Ramakrishnaiah, in the presence of Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. M.G. Manjunath and Finance Officer C.P. Sowmyashree.

***Prof. K. Ramakrishnaiah** (extreme right), who assumed charge as the Music University VC in city yesterday, being greeted by outgoing VC Prof. Nagesh V. Bettakote as Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. M.G. Manjunath and Finance Officer C.P. Sowmyashree look on.*

Profile

Prof. Ramakrishnaiah, who is also a theatre person, is the Senior Professor of Performing Arts Department at Bangalore University. A native of Gowribidanur taluk in Chikkaballapur district, he is a Ninasam Graduate and holds MA in Drama from Bangalore University, besides Ph.D. He has a vast teaching experience of 25 years.

Also an actor and theatre director, Prof. Ramakrishnaiah has written four plays and published them. In the year 2011, he was awarded Karnataka Nataka Academy State Fellowship and in 2017, he was bestowed with the State Nataka Academy Award.

Previous VC

Prof. Nagesh Bettakote had served as the VC of Music University from Jan. 22, 2021, whose tenure came to an end on Jan. 22, 2025. However, he continued as the in-charge VC, with extension twice, till the appointment of the regular VC in Prof. Ramakrishnaiah.

Fashionavya Expo begins

Seen in the picture are** (from left) **Anjali Satish, Mona Bhatewra, Padmavathy Mahesh, Dr. Suman Basavaraju, Prithvi Sudindar, D. Anitha and Namrata Shenoy during the inauguration of the 8th Edition of Fashionavya Exhibition at Hotel Southern Star in city this morning.

Mysuru, Feb. 24- The Fashionavya Exhibition launched its 8th Edition at Hotel Southern Star in city this morning.

The event was jointly inaugurated by Namrata Shenoy (Founder, Trustee - Divya Foundation, National President 2018-Ladies Circle India), Mona Bhatewra (Chairperson-JITO Ladies Wing), Prithvi Sudindar (Therapist, Healer & Managing Trustee - Mythri Charitable Trust School), Anjali Satish (Trustee - Mythri Charitable Trust), Dr. Suman Basavaraju (Healthcare Visionary Founder - Whiteswan Aesthetics), Akanksha Gowda (Founder - Avika, Lecturer, Celebrity Designer & Influencer), Padmavathy Mahesh (Entrepreneur in Education and Business), D. Anitha (Principal - Mahaveer Vidya Mandir) and Meghana Kanderai (CEO - Abilliter, a production house & a digital marketing agency).

Fashionavya's core objective is to bridge the fashion gap between metro cities and Tier-II cities such as Mysuru. Keeping this vision in focus, the Fashionavya Exhibition presents a wide and curated range of designer sarees, apparel, jewellery, accessories, beauty products, home décor and furnishings, gifts and more — specially selected for the stylish women of Mysuru.

The Sustainable, Organic and Exo-friendly Fashion Lifestyle Exhibition will be open from 11 am to 9 pm today and tomorrow.

Abhiyenthararu National Theatre Festival in city from tomorrow

Senior Journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar (centre) releasing the posters of Abhiyenthararu National Theatre Festival-2026 during a press meet at Pathrakarthara Bhavan in city on Feb. 22. Others seen are (from left) Theatre Festival Convenor Asha, Abhiyenthararu President H.S. Suresh Babu, Senior Theatre Person Rajashekar Kadamba and Theatre Festival Convenor Naveen.

Mysuru, Feb. 24- A five-day Abhiyenthararu National Theatre Festival has been organised at Mini Theatre in Kalamandira premises in city from Feb. 25 to Mar. 1.

Dr. H.C. Boralingaiah, Chairman, Karnataka Janapada Parishat and former Vice-Chancellor, Hampi Kannada University, will inaugurate the Festival at 6.30 pm tomorrow.

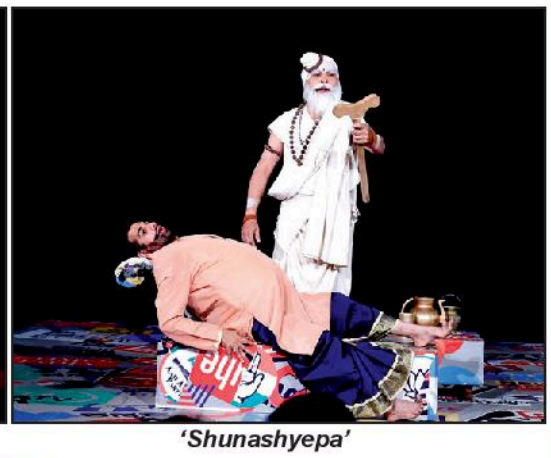
Shashidhar Bharighat, Member, Ranga Samaja, V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy, Joint Director, Kannada & Culture Department and Dr. M.D. Sudarshan, Assistant Director, Kannada & Culture Department, will be the chief guests.

Schedule

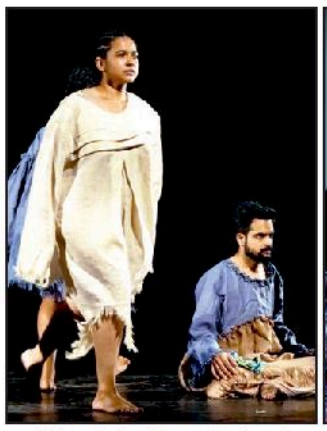
Feb. 25 - 7 pm: Kannada play 'Rama Krishna Shiva' based on Lohia's articles by Karavali Nirdiganta. Directed by Ganesh Mandarthi.

Feb. 26 - 7 pm: Kannada Play 'Shunashyepa' by Oddolaga Rangaparyatana, Uttara Kannada. Written by Nisargapriya. Directed by Manjunath L. Badiger.

'Rama Krishna Shiva'



'Shunashyepa'



'Y - what refuses to face'

'Marana Mrudanga'

'Yayati'

Feb. 27 - 7 pm: Gibberish play 'Y - what refuses to face' by The Interlink Theatre, Kerala. Written by Ensemble. Directed by Remith Ramesh.

Feb. 28 - 5.45 pm: Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi recitals by M. Mallika from Kerala; **7 pm:** Kannada play 'Marana Mrudanga' by Abhiyenthararu. Written and Directed by Rajendra Karanth.

Mar. 1 - 5.45 pm: Om Yoga Kendra, Bengaluru, will present 'Shariff Ajjara Padagala Bhavya Badukina Tatvagala Vyakhyana' by Guru Sri Madhusudhan Katte, 7th generation 'Sahaja Yogi' of Sri Shariff Ajja Parampara. Bhagyashree will sing; **7 pm:** English play 'Yayati' by Theatre Nisha, Chennai. Written by Girish Karnad. Directed by V. Balakrishnan.

Grand Shivarathri celebrations at K. Hemmanahalli

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Mahashivarathri was celebrated with great religious fervour and cultural splendour at Sri Mahalingeshwara Temple in K. Hemmanahalli, located at the 9th kilometre on Bogadi Road in the city. The 32nd Annual Temple Fair (Jatra Mahotsava) was also held on the occasion with much enthusiasm from Sunday to Monday (Feb. 15 and 16).

From 6 am on Sunday, devotees thronged the temple in large numbers. The sacred Rudrabhisheka rituals continued until Monday morning. Devotees had the opportunity to personally perform abhisheka to the ancient Shivalinga situated in the Ashokavana within the temple premises and seek the divine blessings.

Adding to the festive spirit were various religious and cultural programmes that began at 10 am. Artistes of Sri Mahalingeshwara Krupaposhita Nataka Mandali presented devotional musical renditions, while several bhajana groups performed hymns

and recited the Shiva Panchakshari Stotra. A special devotional walk was also organised from the temple to Madagalli Doddakere as part of the Shivarathri observances.

As part of the night-long vigil, artistes from Sri Beereshwara Krupaposhita Nataka Mandali staged a mythological play titled 'Shivabhakta Chandasura (Hemavathi Parinaya)' at the open-air theatre in front of the temple. The brightly illuminated stage and the performance by rural artistes created a deeply devotional atmosphere.

Temple President M. Ganesh, Secretary Ananthavardhana, Treasurer Puttasiddanayaka, Senior Advocate O. Sham Bhat, village elders, Taluk and District Panchayat representatives, former village members M. Mahadevu, Manju (JMMC), Masanegowda, Laxman (son of Ramegowda), Manju (son of Rudrappa), Krishna (son of Dodda Siddegowda), Mahadev Kolakar, Manju and several others were present during the celebrations.

'Mamaravello Kogileyello'

Swaramruta Melodies to present musical evening

Dr. SPB

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Swaramruta Melodies, Mysuru, has organised a musical evening programme titled 'Mamaravello Kogileyello' at Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha on JLB Road in city on Feb. 27 at 5 pm.

The musical evening will feature songs from Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi films rendered by noted singer Dr. S.P. Balasubramanyam (SPB).

For details, contact Mob: 92435-07996.

Ganabharathi fetes senior faculty

During the Annual Day celebrations of Ganabharathi Music and Dance School at Veene Seshanna Bhavan on Feb. 22, Vidu. K. Bhagyalakshmi, senior faculty of Classical Music, was honoured for her dedication and commitment in her 15-year teaching profession at Ganabharathi School.

Mysore Toastmasters celebrate 16th Anniversary

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Mysore Toastmasters celebrated its landmark 600th meeting and 16th anniversary in city recently.

The milestone event brought together members, alumni, dignitaries and guests for an afternoon of inspiring speeches, engaging contests and reflections on the club's journey.

The programme began with a warm-up session led by Sai Jog and S. Himaan Harish.

The lamp was lit by Gokul P. Menon, DTM, District 121 Director; Prathapmohan Nair, DTM, Club Growth Director; D.J. Harshitha, Area Director and Vishal Nangal, President of Mysore Toastmasters, symbolising the spirit of knowledge, leadership and service.

Sergeant-at-Arms K.S. Sanjay outlined the meeting protocols. Masters of Ceremony L. Srihari and C.S. Rachana steered the audience through a well-curated programme.

The celebration featured addresses by the District Director and the Club Growth Director, followed by a musical interlude with a guitar performance by Arnav Yadrami. The Elevator Pitch Contest, moderated by Kavitha M. Prakash, DTM, showcased five dynamic speakers delivering concise and compelling presentations.

A special segment titled "Coffee with the Legacy" brought engaging conversations with senior Toastmasters, including Kavitha M. Prakash, DTM; Suma Yadrami, DTM; Gokul P. Menon, DTM and D.J. Harshitha, who shared insights from their leadership journeys.

The Debate Contest, moderated by N.G. Satish, witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of Mysore Toastmasters, VVCE Toastmasters and invited guests across two competitive rounds.

The Table Topics session, hosted by Suma Yadrami, DTM, and Deepak Laxman, provided five speakers an opportunity to demonstrate their impromptu speaking skills.

A major highlight was the keynote address by Murali Konareddy, Director of Learners PU College, who encouraged members to embrace lifelong learning and purposeful leadership.

Prize distribution

At the prize distribution ceremony, special awards were presented for Best Dressed Male and Female attendees. The President distributed awards, certificates and mementos.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organisation that builds confidence and teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Founded in 1924 by Ralph C. Smedley, the organisation provides a supportive environment for communication and leadership development through its Pathways learning experience.

Mysore Toastmasters meets every Saturday at 5 pm at Learners PU College, Vijayanagar, Mysuru. For details, contact G. Vishok, Vice-President Membership, on Mob:97398-67073.

Street play for drug-free Mysuru

Mysuru, Feb. 24 (VVH&BS)- DCP (Crime and Traffic) K.S. Sundar Raj has said, if the children and youths are addicted to drugs and substance abuse, their future will be lost and the parents should take responsibility for the same.

He was speaking after inaugurating a street play, organised jointly by Gandhadagudi Foundation and Nepathya Theatre Troupe, at the premises of Dufferin Clock Tower in city recently, to create awareness on the eradication of drugs and the ill-effects of drugs.

"The City Police have been conducting extensive drug raids, with Vimukthi Drive launched with a Toll Free Helpline to weed out the menace. More public awareness should be created about the drive," DCP Sundar Raj said.

The drug addict not just becomes a bane to the family but also to the society. It will be sending a negative message to the society. Awareness is the only key to take preventive steps to create Safe Mysuru. On the other hand, the youngsters should resolve to stay away from the influence of vices, he said, giving a clarion call to join hands to make Mysuru drug-free.

Devaraja Traffic Police Inspector Mamatha, Devaraja Police Inspector Raghu, M.M. Nikhilesh, Nenapina Navika Pradeep, Aryan Gandhadagudi, social worker Vidya, Goutham V. Raj, R. Yashoda, Mahadev Shetty, Bhargavi, Ganesh, Sagar, Vijay and others were present.

The Little Gym

A first-of-its-kind centre launched for Mysuru's youngest citizens

Mysuru, Feb.24-As one of the first centres of its kind in Mysuru and backed by an established global brand, the recent launch of *The Little Gym* in Mysuru signals a shift in the city's parenting and extracurricular landscape.

Over the weekend, families gathered at the newly opened centre, curious about a concept many had only heard about through word of mouth. By the end of the event, that curiosity had turned into enthusiasm.

Parents described the experience as "refreshing" and "long overdue," while children, the true critics, seemed entirely at home, tumbling, balancing and attempting new skills with visible excitement.

For Mysuru, known for its cultural depth and strong educational foundations, the arrival of a globally established children's enrichment programme marks a noteworthy addition to the city's growing focus on early childhood development.

A Global Brand

Founded in 1976 by educator Robin Wes in the United States, *The Little Gym* began with a simple belief: children thrive when physical activity is combined with structured learning and positive reinforcement. Nearly five decades later, the brand has expanded internationally, building a reputation for non-competitive gymnastics and holistic child development.

At the heart of its approach is what it calls "Three-Dimensional Learning," a method designed to develop children physically, cognitively and socially at the same time. While the visible outcome may be improved balance or coordination, the deeper objective is confidence.

The programme is intentionally non-competitive. There are no trophies, no rankings and no comparisons. Instead, children are encouraged to attempt, explore, make mistakes and try again, in an environment where effort is celebrated as much as achievement.

More than an Activity Centre

What distinguishes the Mysuru centre is not just the equipment or the curriculum, but the environment it seeks to create. Classes are structured, age-appropriate and progressive, blending movement with music, storytelling and guided interaction.

For parents, the appeal lies in the long-term benefits. Research increasingly points to the importance of movement in early brain development. Physical activity in the formative years has been linked to improved focus, emotional regulation and social adaptability. In practical terms, that can translate to better classroom engagement, improved listening skills and stronger peer interaction.

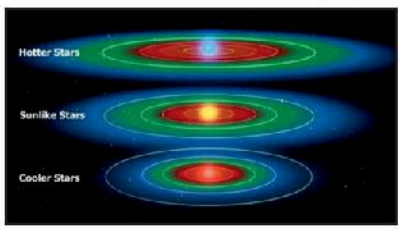
Several parents at the launch remarked that Mysuru had long needed a space that focuses not only on physical fitness but also on building resilience and independence in young children.

The Little Gym's arrival may well influence how Mysuru parents approach early childhood development in the years ahead.

WORD OF THE DAY

Goldilocks

Pronunciation: GOHL-dee-lahks (adjective)



Meaning: Goldilocks describes something that has or produces an optimal balance usually between two extremes. In astronomy, it specifically designates an area of planetary orbit neither too hot nor too cold to support life.

Origin: English has always drawn inspiration from fables and fairy tales, stories bursting with metaphors that help users get their verbiage just right: one may fall down a rabbit hole (thank you, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland), cry wolf (we see you, Aesop's Fables), or hope one day to meet one's Prince Charming (brava, Cinderella). The adjective Goldilocks is borrowed, of course, from Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a perennial favourite in which a little girl so-named for her golden hair finds the perfect balance between hot and cold, soft and hard, small and large — all in the home of unknowing strangers. Since the mid-1960s, English speakers have applied Goldilocks to all things regarded as perfectly balanced or happily medium. The word has specific applications in astronomy, with the phrase "Goldilocks zone" designating an area of planetary orbit in which temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold to support life.

Example: "It's a well-known fact that the time between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon is a liminal space. ... It's too late for lunch, too early for dinner. But it's the Goldilocks hour for a little treat." —Nikita Richardson, The New York Times, 8 May 2025.

THE ODD WORD

Zazzy

Flashy; stylish.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Rock the Boat

Meaning: The phrase 'Rock the Boat' means to do something that causes trouble or disturbs the harmony of a situation.

Origin: The origin of the phrase 'Rock the Boat' is attributed to American statesman, lawyer and politician William Jennings Bryan, who was famously quoted "The man who rocks the boat ought to be stoned when he gets back on shore." In this 1914 quote, it is evident that Bryan was referring to those who stir up trouble.

Example: "We are days before the elections; you can't rock the boat now!"

QUOTE BOX

I have no fear of making changes, destroying the image, etc., because the painting has a life of its own. — **Jackson Pollock**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

2BOR-2B

Answer: To be or not to be.

SUDOKU

		9	2					3
		5		8				
8		6		9	7			
4		7	8					6
2					1	4		7
			3	1		8		9
				7		1		
6					8	2		

Answer to previous puzzle

6	9	1	3	4	2	7	8	5
5	3	8	9	6	7	2	1	4
7	2	4	1	5	8	3	9	6
3	6	9	4	2	5	8	7	1
8	5	2	6	7	1	9	4	3
1	4	7	8	9	3	5	6	2
2	1	3	7	8	6	4	5	9
9	8	6	5	3	4	1	2	7
4	7	5	2	1	9	6	3	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

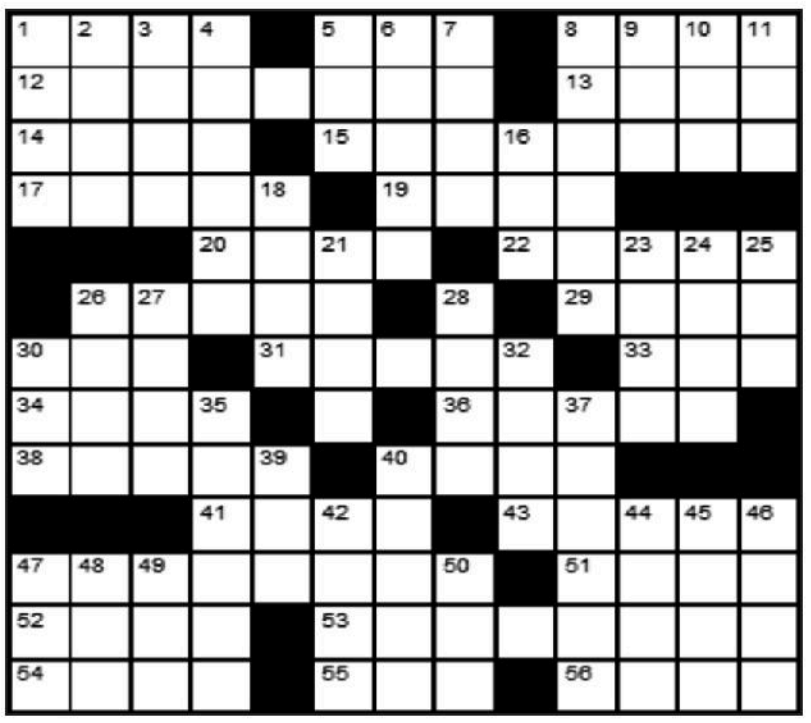
1. Christian ___ : the famous French couturier who died in 1957?
5. Spider house
8. English batsman ___ Morgan
12. Obsession (4,4)
13. They are bound by vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
14. Mafia bigwigs
15. Edible jelly
17. Small intestine part
19. Indian music form
20. Flesh used as food
22. Downy duck
26. Double curves
29. Young sheep
30. Mineral spring
31. Grades or levels
33. 2001 in Roman numerals
34. Hindu goddess
36. Between ports (2,3)
38. Texas shrine
40. Misfortune
41. Feline sound
43. Lofty nest
47. Small or unimportant details
51. Get your skates on if you want to use it
52. Polluted air
53. Oral examination? (4-4)
54. Mown grass
55. Dutch commune
56. Greek letters-"seat" changed?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

I	S	U	P	■	K	E	L	P	■	L	A	S
N	E	S	H	■	O	D	E	R	■	I	M	P
N	E	H	A	■	A	G	O	O	D	B	U	Y
S	P	A	R	K	L	E	■	T	E	E	■	■
■	■	■	A	I	A	■	H	O	R	R	O	R
M	A	S	O	N	■	M	E	N	■	A	P	O
I	T	C	H	■	T	A	P	■	S	T	U	B
N	E	O	■	C	D	R	■	G	E	E	S	E
I	N	T	E	R	S	■	M	A	C	■	■	■
■	■	F	L	U	■	B	I	G	O	T	E	D
V	E	R	Y	N	E	A	R	■	N	A	P	E
I	C	E	■	C	A	R	T	■	D	R	E	W
M	O	E	■	H	U	S	H	■	S	P	E	Y

DOWN

1. Khaled's famous song or Indian relative?
2. Object of worship
3. Prefix for wine
4. Begin anew
5. Toupee
6. Use energy
7. Banjo maestro ___ Fleck
8. Involve necessarily
9. Alsace assent
10. Motel kin
11. Natl. Stock Exchg.
16. A period of time
18. Suitable, proper or fitting?
21. Unchanged (2,2)
23. Titled lady
24. Jane Austen heroine
25. Rsrv. Bk. of India
26. Gem from White Cliffs
27. Festive occasion
28. Spoken
30. Jamaican popular music
32. Greek colonnade
35. Attack as false
37. Deflect or turn aside
39. Baseball or cricket call
40. Twist together; plaited tress of hair
42. Split or cleave
44. Uprising
45. Peru native
46. Supplements with difficulty
47. Master of Science in Linguistics, deg.
48. Integrated Modular Avionics
49. ___ and again : from time to time; intermittently?
50. New Year's ___ : 31st. December?



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

QKYVQNZ QFM ZWSP QTFMMQXNM GFYMKIZ,

BPMR QZO KH DWMZBYHKZ, QKI

BPMR JQZZ KH SFYBYSYZVZ.

TODAY'S CLUE: K EQUALS N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Let us never negotiate out of fear.
But let us never fear to negotiate.

SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Sangam Theatre** **Ph: 2520494**
  Second Case of Seetharam (K) - 2; *Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)* - 2
- **Padma Theatre** **Ph: 2521923**
  Bharathi Teacher (K) - 1 Show; *Ghilli (Ta)* - 3 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** **Ph: 2422871**
  Sarala Subbarao (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** **Mob: 99008-20093**
  45 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** **Ph: 2443568**
  Sarala Subbarao (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Dharmista (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** **Ph: 2420885**
  Landlord (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** **Ph: 2423554**
  Bagavathi (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** **Mob: 98863-25207**
  O' Romeo 3 (H) - 3 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

Goat (E-3D)	(S-1)	12.20 pm, 2.35 pm, 4.50 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	(S-1)	7.15 pm
Do Deewane Seher Mein (H)	(S-1)	9.45 pm; (S-2) 10.05 am
O Romeo (H)	(S-2)	12.55 pm
February 30 (K)	(S-2)	4.40 pm
Assi (H)	(S-2)	7.15 pm, 10.05 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	(S-3)	10.35 am, 7.15 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	(S-3)	1.10 pm
Maarnami (K)	(S-3)	4.05 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	(S-3)	9.55 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	(S-4)	10.15 am, 4.10 pm
Suri Anna (K)	(S-4)	1.15 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	(S-4)	7.05 pm, 9.45 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

Maarnami (K)	:	1.25 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	1.30 pm
		7.45 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	1.45 pm, 4.30 pm
		7.30 pm
Alpha Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	4.30 pm
		7.30 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.45 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

Assi (H)	:	10.25 am, 4.30 pm, 10.20 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	10.55 am, 2.30 pm, 6.05 pm, 9.40 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	11 am, 7.20 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	11.25 am, 7.25 pm
Goat (E-3D)	:	11.50 am, 7.15 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	11.50 am, 2.20 pm, 4.50 pm, 7.20 pm
Maarnami (K)	:	1.15 pm
Suri Anna (K)	:	2 pm
Zootopia 2 (E-3D)	:	2.05 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	2.10 pm, 9.50 pm
Weapons (E-2D)	:	4.30 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.50 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	4.50 pm, 10.05 pm
Tu Yaa Main (H)	:	7.05 pm
Wuthering Heights (E)	:	9.30 pm
JC: The University (K)	:	10.10 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	11.25 am, 4.30 pm, 6.10 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	12.05 pm, 4.05 pm, 9.30 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	1 pm, 4.15 pm, 9.50 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	1.25 pm, 6.50 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	1.55 pm, 7.15 pm
Maarnami (K)	:	2.55 pm, 9 pm
Amruthaanjan (K)	:	7 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	10.10 pm

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 24)

- **Fashionavya:** Sustainable, Organic and Exo-friendly Fashion Lifestyle Exhibition, Hotel Southern Star, Vinoba Road, **up to 9 pm.**
- **Indian Dastkaar Handloom & Handicraft Haat:** Exclusive exhibition on Handlooms, Handicrafts & Lifestyle products, Scouts & Guides Ground, behind Old DC's Office, **up to 9.30 pm.**
- **Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Parishat, Mysuru Chapter and Sri Anantheshwara Trust:** 'Mareyalagada Mahaneeyaru' (Unforgettable Legends), a Special Sugama Sangeetha (Light Music) programme, led by renowned singer Nithin Rajaram Shastry; Singers Divya Sachidananda, Dr. Sridevi Kulenur, Amrutha Nithin Shastri, Rythwik C. Raj and G.R. Sreekara will perform, with Purushotham on keyboard, Bheemashankar Bidanur on tabla, Balasubramanya on flute & H.P. Sujayendra on rhythm pad; V. Keerthana comperes; Dr. P. Shivaraju, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru, inaugurates, Dr. M.D. Sudarshan, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture and Amshi Prasanna Kumar, Senior Journalist, chief guests, Dr. Nagaraj V. Bairy, President of the Mysuru Chapter of Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Parishat, will be present, Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, JLB Road, **5 pm.**

Nithin Shastry

EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 25)

- **Indian Dastkaar Handloom & Handicraft Haat:** Exclusive exhibition on Handlooms, Handicrafts & Lifestyle products, Scouts & Guides Ground, behind Old DC's Office, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Fashionavya:** Sustainable, Organic and Exo-friendly Fashion Lifestyle Exhibition, Hotel Southern Star, Vinoba Road, **11 am to 9 pm.**
- **JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU):** 8th Convocation, Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Chancellor of JSS STU, presides, B.M. Jayeshankar, Chairman and Managing Director of Adarsh Group, Bengaluru, who is also a distinguished alumnus of the college, delivers Convocation Address, Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, Executive Secretary, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, administers the Oath for the graduands, Dr. B. Suresh, Director, Technical Education Division; Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor; Dr. S.A. Dhanaraj, Registrar and Dr. P. Nanjundaswamy, Controller of Examinations, along with the Deans, will be present, JSS STU premises, JSS Technical Institutions Campus, **3 pm.**
- **Rotary Mysore Midtown and Shrisainik Foundation:** Conferring of Rotary Midtown Sainik Desh Rathna Award on Major Bharath Yogendra, Air Commodore (retd.) R.N. Jayasimha chief guest, RCL Hall, JLB Road, **6.30 pm.**

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Feb. 25: 'Kala Saptami,' weekly cultural programme, Tala-Maddale 'Bhakta Shiromani Sudhanva' by Dinesh Bhat, Narayan Hebbar, Ga.Na. Bhat, Dr. G.L. Hegde and Prashant Benkatavalli, Jagannatha Centre for Art and Culture (JCAC), Vijayanagar, **6 pm to 8 pm.**

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

O' Romeo (H)	:	11.55 am, 6.15 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	1 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	1.30 pm, 7.10 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	2 pm, 7.25 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	3.30 pm, 9.50 pm
Maarnami (K)	:	4 pm, 10 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	4.30 pm, 10.10 pm
Assi (H)	:	4.35 pm, 10 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	:	7.10 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	11.15 am, 4.45 pm, 10 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	11.25 am, 2 pm, 7.35 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	11.40 am, 5.55 pm
		9:30 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	11.45 am, 3.10 pm
		7.20 pm, 10 pm
Doddanna Puttanna (K)	:	2.25 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.25 pm
Suri Anna (K)	:	4.45 pm
Maggi Pusthaka (K)	:	6.40 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0

Mysuru, Feb. 24- The District Outreach Programme under Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will be conducted by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office, Mysuru, on Feb. 27 from 9 am onwards in all 4 districts under the jurisdiction of EPFO, Mysuru — Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar.

In Mysuru at Glowtronics Private Limited, 1-D, Hootagalli Industrial Area. In Mandya, at Mandya District Co-operative Union Ltd. Sahakara Rajatha Bhavana, #1156, 1st Cross, Ashoka Nagar. In Chamarajanagar, at St. John's High School in Managalli, Gundlupet. In Kodagu, at Heavenly Hills Resorts (Green Park), Karnangeri Village, Somwarpet Road, Makkandur PO.

Stakeholders like PF Members, Pensioners, Employers etc. may attend the programme for awareness, queries and information. For more details, contact PRO on Ph: 0821-2599200/222 or e-mail to: ***ro.mysore@epfindia.gov.in*** or visit Social Media Platform (@epfomysore) of Regional Office, Mysuru.

Wins 1st place in State-level Qirath

Mysuru, Feb. 24- Mohammed Ammar, a Class 10 student of Little Gems School, N.R. Mohalla, has secured 1st place in the State-level Pratibha Karanji Qirath Competition held recently at Koppal.

Mohammed Ammar

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